

# **Recticon / Allied Steel Corporation**

**EPA Region 3 EPA ID#** PAD002353969 **Last Update:** August 2002

Chester County

Parker Ford      **6th** Congressional District **Other Names:** None

## **Current Site Status**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing the cleanup of the Recticon/Allied Steel site. The groundwater pump and treat system has been operating since 1998, cleaning the groundwater. A public waterline was installed and individual homes connections were completed in November 1999. The property is in the process of being acquired by the Longsteth Corp. via a prospective purchaser agreement for industrial development.

## **Site Description**

The five-acre Recticon/Allied Steel site consists of two properties: the former Recticon facility and the Allied Steel Products Corporation facility. Recticon was a subsidiary of Rockwell International, manufacturers of silicon wafers from 1974 to 1981. As early as 1979, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) detected trichloroethylene (TCE), a chemical component of solvents, in the groundwater beneath the site. In 1980, a Recticon contractor found TCE in the plant drain lines, in sludge trapped within buried

waste lines, and in soils. Allied Steel Products Corporation fabricated steel since 1972 on a property 100 feet to the southeast of Recticon. In 1984, an Allied contractor determined that leakage in the area of Allied's compressor room had released TCE to the ground. High levels of TCE were also found in Allied's on-site well. The area around the site is residential, industrial, and agricultural. On-site and private wells sampled by the EPA were found to be contaminated by volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including TCE. Runoff from the site reaches the Schuylkill River 2,400 feet downstream. The local water company blends water from the river with well water to serve its 11,500 customers.

### **Site Responsibility**


Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of Federal and State governments, and parties potentially responsible for site contamination.

### **NPL Listing History**

Our country's most serious, uncontrolled, or abandoned hazardous waste sites can be cleaned using federal money. To be eligible for federal cleanup money, a site must be put on the National Priorities List. This site was proposed to the list on June 24, 1988 and formally added to the list October 4, 1989.

## **Threats and Contaminants**

On-site and private wells sampled by EPA in 1990 and 1991 were found to be contaminated by VOCs including TCE. Accidentally ingesting or coming into direct contact with contaminated groundwater could threaten the health of people in the area.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

## **Cleanup Progress**

Recticon removed contaminated soil from the site and transported it to an EPA-approved facility for disposal. Recticon also pumped and treated the groundwater for a few months, but the process did not resolve the contamination at the site. Allied Steel removed

contaminated soil and shipped the soil off site for proper disposal. Rockwell International, the parent Corporation of Recticon, provided carbon filtration units to residents whose wells were contaminated above acceptable levels. Later these residences were "hooked-up" to the public waterline in the fall of 1999.

Under EPA oversight, Rockwell conducted a study to determine the nature and extent of the contamination and the possible alternative technologies for cleanup. The study began in 1991 and was approved in 1993. EPA selected a final cleanup option for site contamination in the ROD in June 1993. The remedy included groundwater treatment, soil excavation/disposal, and extension of a public water line. EPA issued an order to four companies on March 24, 1994 to carry out these measures. Only Rockwell complied. Pre-design field investigations were completed by Rockwell in December 1995. In April 1997, following a request from Rockwell, the cleanup decision was amended to change groundwater clean up standards from background (amount of contamination that exists in the atmosphere) to maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), or drinking water standards, and eliminate the excavation of soil. The soil excavation was no longer necessary to protect groundwater as a result of the change in groundwater cleanup standards. EPA considers MCLs to be protective of human health.

In 1999, Conexant Systems, Inc. was formed to handle the semiconductor business side of Rockwell International. Conexant Systems, Inc. is now responsible for the cleanup of the Recticon/Allied Steel Site.

## **Contacts**

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Detailed public files (Administrative Record) on EPA's actions and decisions for this site can be examined at the following locations:

East Coventry Township Building  
855 Ellis Woods Road  
Pottstown, PA 19464

U.S. EPA Region III  
6th Floor Docket Room  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-814-3157

Please call for an appointment.